

# The Epistle

ST. JAMES  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH



## BLESSINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR

"And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." (Revelation 21:5)



With a new year also comes a time of reflecting on what has been. This past year we found some new ways to be in ministry. Chiavetta's drive-thru chicken dinners have answered the question of how to continue the once popular sit down dinners at St. James. A new bottle/can deposit ministry is something all can contribute to, in addition to our store which sells nearly new and new items.

Our building has seen new changes this past year in addition to utilizing space in new ways. Purchases of a needed new tractor to maintain our grounds, a hot water tank and a new organ for a bargain price have enhanced our ministries at St. James. A new sign closer to the road has proven to be worth the investment in advertising our ministries. The cross garden was given a new look and offered a colorful feast for the eyes to all.

Although some have gone to be with the Lord this past year, we have new members that we welcome as part of our family.

(Continued on page 3)

February - March  
2012

St. James United Methodist Church

Pastor: Rev. Daryl Bennett

4661 Porter Road

Niagara Falls, NY 14305-3309

(716) 297-6421 Fax (716) 298-1142

Rev. Bennett's cell phone: (716) 380-6706

Email: [office@stjamesniagara.org](mailto:office@stjamesniagara.org)

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# YOU ARE INVITED TO A DINNER THEATER



**DENISE REICHARD**  
PORTRAYING DOLLEY MADISON  
ALSO, ENJOY MUSIC FROM THE ERA

**SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 18TH**  
ST. JAMES UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
4661 PORTER ROAD  
NIAGARA FALLS, NY  
[stjamesniagara.org](http://stjamesniagara.org)

**DINNER AT 6:00 PM**  
**PROGRAM AT 7:00 PM**  
Fine dining to include: A red and white lasagna,  
salad, garlic bread, dessert & beverages.  
Seating limited to 100. Reservations due by Sunday, February 12th  
Call the church office (297-6421) or sign up on the list in the narthex.

**\$15/ADULT OR  
\$25/COUPLE**

## THE COVENANT OF THE CROSS

Lenten/Easter Worship

February 22<sup>nd</sup> 7 PM  
Ash Wednesday

February 26<sup>th</sup> 11 AM  
God's Covenant

March 4<sup>th</sup> 11 AM  
God's Promise

March 11<sup>th</sup> 11 AM  
God's Wisdom

March 18<sup>th</sup> 11 AM  
God's Loving Sacrifice

March 25<sup>th</sup> 11 AM  
God's Glory

April 1<sup>st</sup> 11 AM  
Palm Sunday

April 5<sup>th</sup> 7 PM  
Holy Thursday

April 6<sup>th</sup> 7 PM  
Good Friday  
Cantata presented by the  
Lewiston Choraleers:  
"The Rose of Calvary"  
by Joseph Martin

April 8<sup>th</sup> 11 AM  
EASTER

**PLEASE JOIN US  
IN THIS  
HOLY SEASON OF  
WORSHIP**

Pastor's letter, continued from page 1:

This month we were also informed that two of our staff are heading in a new direction. Due to personal reasons, Phil McCombs advised that he will no longer be a part of St. James. Chrissy McCombs was promoted to the position of manager at her place of employment. Due to the increase of hours and travel time at her new store, she has advised that she will be leaving us at the end of January. We thank them for their time with us and their respective ministries of Youth Director and Christian Education Director. Blessings to both as they start their new journey in February.

As we enter this year of 2012, who knows what new paths or ministries may be ahead of us? Regardless, we have this assurance that the One that makes all things new, is with us through it all. Thanks be to God for what was, what is and what is to come!

Blessings for the New Year -

Pastor Daryl

## FALLS YOUTH SERVICES

Our youth group has been very active in ministry this past month.

In addition to decorating the sanctuary for Advent/Christmas, our inspirational youth made a trail mix with an attached Christmas card that was delivered to all of our seniors who are not always able to attend services.



Phil McCombs organized and led a Christmas party that was enjoyed by the students and aids. In addition to treats and crafts, Phil offered and participated in some technology fun!

If you have not been in the kitchen or the "coleslaw" room lately, be sure to "sneak a peek." The youth learned organizational and cleaning skills thanks to our custodian David Payne. We are on our way to having "a place for everything and everything in its place".



Please join us on a Wednesday morning from 10:00 am - 11:30 am. After encountering this "good news" group, you will leave with a smile and lots of joy. If you have a skill you would like to share/teach our service oriented youth, please contact Pastor Daryl.

# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women will meet Thursday, February 23rd at 1:00 pm. The program will be "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial: A Time for Change."



Leaders and hostess TBA.

The UMW March meeting will be held on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm. The program will be "National Ministries." Leaders and hostess TBA.

### SEW & SOW'S

The Sew & Sow's continue to distribute "Prayer Quilts" and "Cuddle Quilts" to persons in our church and community who are in need of our love and support. "Prayer Quilts" are made for those nearing the end of their earthy life. "Cuddle Quilts" are smaller lap quilts given to those going through a serious bout of ill health. Both quilts are a tangible reminder that St. James folks are praying for them.

If you know of any person in need of one of our quilts, please let us know in order to let us take the necessary steps to provide one to them. You may contact Joyce Perry. (731-3321)

**Homemade Easter Candy**

March 18th - April 1st

Place an order or purchase candy on Sunday mornings.

Order forms available at the church and on our website

St. James United Methodist Church  
4661 Porter Road  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305  
(716) 297-6421  
stjamesniagara.org

Thank you for supporting us! - St. James United Methodist Women

Candy types listed: Rabbit in Basket, Chocolate Covered Orbits, Nougats, Hockey Pucks, Packages of Miniature Chocolates, Peanut Clusters, Truffles, Chocolate Crosses, Raisin Clusters.

## Niagara Frontier District United Methodist Women

### *District Communion Breakfast*

**Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00 am - Noon**

**St. James United Methodist Church**

**Reservations due by March 24th**



# Stewardship

Having a heart for God

Everyone is encouraged to pledge for our 2012 budget.

In baptism, we all made a covenant to support each other as members of God's family. There are many ways to support the vital ministries that happen at St. James by using our time and talents.

As with all homes, there are also bills to pay with respect to utilities, repairs, etc. In addition to your time and talent, everyone is asked to share their treasure by pledging for 2012. Pledging is a promise or commitment we make on behalf of the church regardless of the amount.

Please call the office for a pledge card or if you have any questions, please see a member of our finance team.

Thank you!



Here are a few more ways of contributing to the budget and reusing/recycling our resources:

Dispose of your papers in our yellow and green recycle bin located on our parking lot.

Clothing may be placed in the clothing shed located on our parking lot.

Deposit (\$.05) bottles and cans may be placed in our recycle collection container located inside the main entrance of our building.

On Sunday mornings Tops grocery cards are available for purchase. For every \$100.00 worth of Tops cards purchased, the church receives \$5.00.

New budget ministry for 2012: PENNIES FROM HEAVEN bank. People often comment that there is nothing you can buy for a penny, but lots of pennies turn into dollars. Please bring your change to St. James. Together we make a difference!



All proceeds from the above will be given to the church budget.

All are invited to share their ideas with Finance for budget ministries ... THANKS!



## CHIAVETTA'S CHICKEN BARBEQUE

Drive through \$8 pre-sale/\$9 curbside

We have scheduled four dinners in 2012:

Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>

We need your help to make these a success. If we could get about 20 people to sign up to help, we could rotate helpers, so we wouldn't have to work each month.

We would also like donations of brownies for each dinner. There will be sign-up sheets closer to the dates.

Please contact Marge Neal (754-7873) or the church office (297-6421) if you can help in any way.

## Recent Highlights of Our 2012 Music Ministry

Christmas Cantata - "The Gift Goes On"  
December 18th



Christmas Morning



Our New Organ!



## Looking Ahead to Easter

On Easter morning the choir will share a very short cantata excerpted from the full-length cantata: "Written in Red" (Created by David Guthrie and Robert Sterling) Come sing with us!

And on Good Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm at St. James, the Lewiston Choraleers directed by Don Schrimpton, will share the Lenten/Easter Cantata, "The Rose Of Calvary," by Joseph Martin. Mark your calendar now!

## CARING FOR GOD'S CHILDREN

At the FOCUS meeting on January 11, 2012, it was approved to transfer the remainder of funds from the previous Pre-K Program to the proposed Child Care Center. With these funds, Thaddeus J. Fyda, an architect, has been retained to prepare a comprehensive building code analysis to determine the extent of work required to facilitate a child care center at St. James, and architectural prints/drawings to meet the specifications required by the City of Niagara Falls and New York State.

When this preliminary work is completed it will be presented to St. James so we may determine the exact costs associated with having a child care center as a new ministry. Please keep this proposed ministry in your prayers as we discern the feasibility of being in ministry with our neighbors.

St. James Second Annual  
Epiphany Party  
and "Dancing with the Stars"  
Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>  
A fun time was had by all!



# February 2012

## St. James United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 am Falls Youth Services	2 9:30 am Sew & Sows 7:00 pm Choir	3	4
5 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	6 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers Rehearsal	7 8:00 am Dirt Devils Noon "Good Grief" study	8 9:30 am Falls Youth Services 6:30 pm SPRC 7:00 pm Focus	9 9:30 am Sew & Sows 7:00 pm Choir	10	11
12 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	13 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers Rehearsal	14 8:00 am Dirt Devils 1:00 pm "The Shack" study	15 9:30 am Falls Youth Services	16 9:30 am Sew & Sows 10:00 am Worship Committee Noon Staff meeting 7:00 pm Choir	17 11:00 am St. James Seniors	18 6:00 pm Dinner Theater
19 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	20 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers Rehearsal	21 8:00 am Dirt Devils Noon "Good Grief" study	22 9:30 am Falls Youth Services 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	23 9:30 am Sew & Sows 1:00 pm UMW 7:00 pm Choir	24	25
26 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	27 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers Rehearsal	28 8:00 am Dirt Devils 1:00 pm "The Shack" study	29 9:30 am Falls Youth Services 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service			

# MARCH 2012

## St. James United Methodist Church

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1 9:30 am Sew & Sows 7:00 pm Choir	2	3
4 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	5 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers Rehearsal	6 8:00 am Dirt Devils Noon "Good Grief" study	7 9:30 am Falls Youth Services	8 9:30 am Sew & Sows 7:00 pm Choir	9	10
11 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	12 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers Rehearsal	13 8:00 am Dirt Devils 1:00 pm "The Shack" study	14 9:30 am Falls Youth Services 6:30 pm SPRC 7:00 pm Focus	15 9:30 am Sew & Sows 11:00 am Worship Committee Noon Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Choir	16 11:00 am St. James Seniors	17
18 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship UMW Candy Sale begins	19 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers Rehearsal	20 8:00 am Dirt Devils Noon "Good Grief" study	21 9:30 am Falls Youth Services	22 9:30 am Sew & Sows 1:00 pm UMW 7:00 pm Choir	23	24
25 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship UMW Candy Sale	26 6:30 pm Rainbow Singers Rehearsal	27 8:00 am Dirt Devils 1:00 pm "The Shack" study	28 9:30 am Falls Youth Services	29	30	31 9:00 am District UMW Communion Breakfast

## Choosing Sides

*At a White House dinner, a churchman offered a benediction and closed with the pious affirmation: "The Lord is on our side."*

*When President Lincoln did not respond to this sentiment, someone asked him, "Don't you believe, Mr. President, that the Lord is always on the side of the right?"*

*"I am not concerned about that," was Lincoln's answer, "for we know that the Lord is always on the side of the right. My concern is that I and this nation should be on the Lord's side."*



Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone, or at least used it as much?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

AND, unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill!

DEADLINE FOR  
APRIL/MAY EPISTLE: MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>

## You Can't Say We Didn't Tell You...



There are lots of ways to find out what's going on at St. James, including several right on your home computer:

1. Announcements in the weekly bulletin
2. A church calendar is posted on the Welcome Table in the narthex, as are notices of upcoming special events. (And there is a calendar on our website.)
3. Bulletin Boards
4. The *Epistle* newsletter that you are holding in your hands is sent out every two months. (and you can download a copy from our website.)
5. Our *Centered in Christ* email newsletter is sent out weekly. (If you don't already receive it, just leave your name and email address in the offering plate on Sunday, in the church office, or sent a note to [webmaster@stjamesniagara.org](mailto:webmaster@stjamesniagara.org). It's free, and we keep your email address private.)
6. [stjamesniagara.org](http://stjamesniagara.org) - Our St. James website is full of helpful information.

**Come to Jesus,  
Learn from Jesus  
Go with Jesus**

**St. James Mission Statement:** To God's glory and through the leading of the Holy Spirit we invite all to: **COME TO JESUS**, finding a haven to cultivate a personal dynamic relationship with Him; **LEARN FROM JESUS**, through the study of the Bible, encouragement, worship and prayer; **GO WITH JESUS**, empowered together to share His liberating word.

**St. James United Methodist Church**

Church office hours:

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Pastor's hours:

Tuesday and Thursday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

and by appointment Wednesday afternoons.



**Sunday Schedule**

Sunday School at 9:30 am

Worship Service at 11:00 am

**The Epistle**



ST. JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
4661 PORTER ROAD  
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14305

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